

Shanghai Municipal Police.

1.6.59-2



I. O. CENTRAL

Station.

November 29,

1924.

REPORT ON Bolshevik Propaganda

Made by D. I. Givens.

Forwarded by *af* Director of Criminal Intelligence.

Sir,

I attach herewith "Notes on Bolshevik Activities in Shanghai". After a period of comparative quietness in 1923 and the early part of 1924, there is evidence that a movement is now afoot to renew the activities of extremist agents whose propaganda now seems to include advocacy of a modified form of communism, Anti Foreignism, and Pan Asiaticism. I therefore beg to recommend that the following measures be taken to combat this evil:

- (1) That the present policy of prosecuting agitators whose activities justify such action be continued.
- (2) That the present policy of prosecuting persons responsible for the printing and publication and distribution of extremist literature be continued.
- (3) That the necessity for watching for Bolshevik literature be impressed upon all educated employees of the police, and that a small reward be paid to persons giving information leading to successful prosecutions in cases of this description.
- (4) That persons, who publicly advocate either Bolshevism or anti-foreignism, be denied the right of residence in Foreign Concessions,
- (5) That effective measures be taken by the Chinese Post Office to ensure that the mails will not be used as a medium for the dissemination of extremist literature,
- (6) That an organization be created of societies and

# Shanghai Municipal Police.

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## REPORT ON

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individuals interested in preventing the spread of  
Bolshevism and anti-foreignism in China which will combat  
the evils of Bolshevik propaganda by counter propaganda.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

*J. McGuire*  
D. I.

D. C. I.

*Held under taken  
Apr.  
31/12/24.*

a Cantonese, who acted as the local wholesale agent for the books, was sent to prison for six months.

Advertisements in the books seized showed that agents had been appointed for their sale at schools as far apart as Peking University and Lo Ying College near Swatow. There was no conclusive evidence that any of the prominent political parties were behind the propaganda, but in a signed statement made by the Shanghai wholesale agent, he declared that his principal was employed by a prominent official of the Koumintang Party.

One of the most inflammatory of the books seized was called "The People's Bell", and the fact that the Students Union of Peking and Tientsin gave that name to a paper which they started on June 8 of that year was considered significant.

Later in the same year Bolshevik literature emanating from this port was seized in the cities of Tientsin and Peking and at places in the provinces of Hupeh, Anhwei, and Kwangtung. From intercepted correspondence it was also ascertained that extremist literature had also been despatched in the latter part of 1919 to Chinese in England, France and America who, in acknowledging receipt of the books sent, asked for more. A number of letters from Nanking and from towns and cities in Kiangse, Honan and Szechuen, containing demands for extremist pamphlets and papers, were also intercepted by the Authorities.

*Please add*

Although it was apparent that the brand of extremism propagated in 1919 had its origin in Russia,

*Paul A.*

it was only in 1920 that active participation in the movement by Russians in Shanghai came to the notice of the police. On February 8 and 15 of that year meetings of a group of "Red" Russians were held in a Russian Employment Bureau, which had been established in the American Naval Y.M.C.A. on Avenue Edward VII, about 150 persons being present on each occasion. Opposition to the old diplomatic and consular representatives of Russia, who at that time still held office in China, was voiced at both meetings and the advisability of exercising supervision over the Russo-Asiatic Bank was also discussed. A committee of seven to attend to these matters and to devise means to bring about friendly relations between Chinese democratic organizations and a new government sympathetic to Bolshevism which had been established in Siberia was selected, and propaganda to the same end was conducted by a newly established local Russian newspaper entitled the "Shanghai Life". These activities led to an exchange of letters by the Russian Far Eastern Students and the <sup>Chinese</sup> Students' Union, and an offer made soon afterwards by the Soviet Government to restore to China all concessions, rights and privileges, including extraterritoriality, railway and mining rights, to which past treaties had entitled Russia in this country, gained many new supporters for the reapproachment movement. Although the Chinese Government ignored the offer, a considerable number of Chinese societies replied saying that they considered the terms not only acceptable but generous. Denunciations of militarism and capitalism contained in several of these replies were couched in

terms which left no room for doubt that the persons responsible for their compilation had already come under the influence of Bolshevik propaganda. The bodies which, according to the press sent such replies included: the Amalgamated Association of Street Unions, the Shanghai Students Union, the National Organizations Union of China and several of the oldest established guilds in Shanghai. In 1920 local Chinese pro-Bolsheviks took advantage of the celebration of May 1, Labour Day, and October 10, the anniversary of the foundation of the Chinese Republic, to distribute literature advocating their views, but attempts to make May Day an occasion for a monster demonstration failed.

The Bolshevik propaganda was continued in 1921. On June 4 in that year a number of Chinese of the student class carrying flags emblazoned with violently worded ~~communistic~~ mottoes, entered the Hongkew Park where the Olympic Games were in progress and proceeded to distribute leaflets advocating their views. When an on-looker attempted to stop one of the youths the latter drew an automatic pistol and fired several shots, but fortunately without harmful results. The Police succeeded in arresting six of the demonstrators, including the gunman who was sentenced to 10 years imprisonment and expelled. Three were each sentenced to 6 months imprisonment to be followed by expulsion. Another was expelled and the case against the sixth man dismissed. Other efforts by the police in that year to stop the pernicious propaganda included the successful prosecution of four publishers and disseminators of communistic literature and the seizure

*Recd. 1/15*

and confiscation of large quantities of handbills and pamphlets. Precautionary measures also prevented a group of agitators from holding meetings and processions on Labour Day, May 1.) A review of the work of the Police in the suppression of Bolshevism made at the end of that year showed that between 1919 and that time they had handled no less than twenty seven different kinds of papers, leaflets and handbills in Chinese propagating Anarchism and Communism. It was considered at the time that the agents who arranged for the printing and circulation of this literature were undoubtedly financed by communists in other countries. It was also noted that some of the handbills circulated made special appeals to the soldiers of the garrison of this locality to break away from their allegiance.

In 1922, the Police continued to maintain vigilant surveillance over Chinese political extremists. A vendor of inflammatory literature, who had been detected in this offence for the fourth time, was fined \$500.00 at the Mixed Court on January 6. On June 8, a search made at houses in Taku Road showed that they were being used as the headquarters of a group controlling three societies, known as the Non-Christian Students League, the Marx Literature Research Society and the Young Men's Socialist Society, and the shops of all three organizations were found on the premises which also contained a library of 388 volumes in Chinese, Japanese, Russian, English, French and German of a nature in keeping with the extremism suggested

in the names of the organizations. The police also discovered handbills attacking capitalism and Christianity - "its handmaid" -, and evidence that some members of the group had travelled in Russia a short time previously, and that others were corresponding with Russians known to be in close relations with the Soviet agent at that time in Peking. An order for the confiscation of the inflammatory literature was made by the Mixed Court on June 28, but unfortunately the Police were unable to bring home responsibility for its ownership to any particular individual. They were successful, however, in obtaining evidence against the leader of a group called the Labour Secretariat, having offices in Chengtu Road. He was charged at the Mixed Court on June 9 with inciting postal employees to strike and publishing inflammatory articles in the Labourers' Weekly, and was sentenced to 3 months imprisonment and expulsion. The judgment of the Court also included an order to have the offices of the paper closed. The defendant in this case was probably the most active labour agitator who had ever disturbed Shanghai. In addition to the sentence of imprisonment and expulsion, he had previously been fined at the Mixed Court for intimidating an agent engaged in recruiting workers to replace the seamen on strike in Hongkong and he had also been active in organizing memorial meetings in honour of Marx and other socialists, which coincided with the distribution of inflammatory handbills, including one advocating the seizure of power by the Chinese proletariat. The discoveries made in Taku Road and other evidence previously obtained by the Police showed

that the pro-Bolshevicks had used the anti-Christian movement as a sort of sugar coating for their extremist propaganda.

After a period of comparative quietness in 1923, a revival of Bolshevik activities has been noticeable in Shanghai since the recognition of the Soviet Government by China. Closer co-operation among Russian elements sympathetic to the party has been secured by the concentration of all their offices in <sup>the</sup> Consular Building which now accommodates the Consular Staff, the Shanghai Agency of the Volunteer Fleet, the Far Eastern Bank, the "Dalgostorg" (Far Eastern Trade State Department), the "Gostorgflot" (State Merchant Fleet), the "Gosstrah" (State Insurance) and the Petroleum Syndicate.

Celebrations marked by elaborate decoration of the consulate with red emblems and electric lights were held in connection with its official opening and again on the anniversary of the establishment of Soviet rule, and advantage was taken of these occasions to establish connections with both Chinese officials and professional agitators. Measures have also been taken for the formation among local Russians of a Communist committee, and it is reported that an organizing secretary has arrived here for the purpose of furthering the project. Further evidence of their activities includes organized communist propaganda by a section of the students of the Shanghai University, No. 132 Seymour Road, the open adoption of part of the Soviet policy by the Kuomintang, and a general increase in the vigour of the propaganda of the portion of the Chinese press friendly to them. The policy of appealing

~~to the anti-foreign sentiment existing among Chinese  
by linking their propaganda with the diffusion of anti-  
foreign sentiments seen to be still continued by the  
Soviet agents who sympathize with the Kuomintang demands  
for the abrogation of unequal treaties, the abolition  
of concessions and the cancellation of extraterritoriality.~~